

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2000 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER:

I. Project Title: Coordinated Reservoir Operations Duchesne River

II. Principle Investigator: Jared D. Hansen
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III. Project Summary: The project study will identify and evaluate potential opportunities to coordinate the operation of various reservoirs located in the Duchesne River Basin upstream of the lower Duchesne Rivers with the goal of delivering water through the lower Duchesne River for improvement of the habitat. Reclamation Projects having facilities located in this part of the Basin are the Central Utah Project, Moon Lake Project, Provo River Project, Strawberry Valley Project and the Ute Indian Irrigation Project. Although these projects were independently authorized, there may be opportunities to coordinate the operation of certain facilities to benefit the habitat and endangered fish while not impairing the ability of the Projects to satisfy their authorized purposes. Other non-federal reservoirs may offer additional opportunities to coordinate operations. The potential opportunities will be fully described in the Summary Report with emphasis on those that appear to be the most viable.

The lower 2.5 miles of the Duchesne River has been designated as critical habitat for the razorback sucker and the lower Duchesne River may be important habitat for the endangered Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker. Recovery of these fish in the upper Colorado River is expected to require improvement of existing habitat conditions. The coordinated operation of reservoirs located on the Duchesne River may result in the ability to enhance flows in the lower Duchesne River during periods of the year for the benefit of the endangered fish.

IV. Study Schedule: 1998 - 2001

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2000 tasks and deliverables, discussion of initial findings and shortcomings: This year has been spent building the model to meet the historical operational criteria. Multiple meetings have been held with water users to understand how reservoirs and diversions on the Duchesne River work. Events in the Weber River Basin and the Provo River Basin affect the operations of facilities in the Duchesne River Basin. Data has been obtained reflecting these impacts. Some problems were encountered with some of the data correlation to daily values. All facilities and significant tributaries have been built into the model. Rules to operate the model have been developed for the Strawberry Aqueduct and associated facilities with the exception of Strawberry Reservoir. Review of the completed rules has taken place and associated changes are currently being implemented.

VII. Recommendations:

Model output will be provided on a Monthly timestep in format similar to previously completed studies. Data correlation will need to continue. Extend rules to Strawberry Reservoir and Starvation Reservoir. A review of non-federal diversions below the confluence of the Duchesne and Strawberry Rivers will need to be completed to understand how the lower Duchesne works.

VIII. Project Status:

Task 4 is 85 percent complete. Task 5 is being accomplished for the portion of Task 4 that is complete.

IX. FY 2000 Budget:

- A. Funds Provided: \$40,000 RIP
- B. Funds Expended: \$20,500 RIP
- C. Difference: \$19,500
- D. Recovery Program Funds Expended for Publication Charges: None

X. Signed: /S/ Jared D. Hansen

Date: November 30, 2000